INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DATE 14 MAY 1982

FROM: Cotonou

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 92, October 10, 5 p.m.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 92, INFORMATION ACCRA, OUAGADOUGOU, NIAMEY, ABIDJAN, LOME, UNNUMBERED

Department Circular telegram 644

In course conversation other matters today Foreign Minister Assogba expressed guarded concern recent events Ghana and said he had heard Nkrumah was trying to straighten up in order save Queen's visit. Assogba thought Nkrumah already too far gone pull this one off.

There are probably no more than handful Dahomeans aware Volta Project. Reaction if any will depend on how matter handled.

Ghana Communists will doubtless try make "imperialist" issue of outright refusal stressing "strings" and "broken promises". This line will appeal to some here but there is also a responsible segment that fears Nkrumah and does not wish see him built up. To continue project in circumstances would only serve to encourage those who think it pays to play both sides and beat US over head.

In summary, refusal to go ahead would not raise insuperable problems here.

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